



Submission FOB22

David Nichols

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Nichols, David - Redistribution TAS - Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution (feedback)

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Submission on the proposed Tasmanian redistribution details

Category: Names
Details:

I wish to comment on the conclusion and proposal by the Augmented Electoral Commission to rename the Federal Electorate of Franklin to that of Tongerlongeter.

In the interests of brevity, this submission will focus clearly on the central issue to be considered, rather than an exhaustive summary of the factual evidence involved, which may be sourced independently.

Of the current, and historical, Federal Electorate names employed in Tasmania since Federation, all except one (Darwin; 1930-1955) have honoured individuals who have made a significant and enduring contribution to Australia's parliamentary democracy. This historical theme is unique within all the states of Australia, and can be viewed as an acknowledgement and celebration of the strong and foundational role Tasmania has played in the parliamentary democratic history of Australia.

One may argue that the name of Franklin itself may not align with this historical precedent. However, one may also contend that the Electorate names of Franklin, and also Wilmont, both represent colonial Lieutenant-Governors of Tasmania who at least contributed significantly to public governance of Tasmania as vice-regal officers.

The three names considered as a replacement for the Federal Electorate of Franklin (Mathinna, Rooke and Tongerlongeter) do not fall anywhere within the historical pattern described above.

I would urge the Augmented Electoral Commission to reconsider their conclusion and proposal, given the unique historical context in which Federal Electorate names have been chosen for Tasmania.